Death of Dr. Lonnie Dee Russell, Jr.

Obituary

VIENNA—Lonnie Dee Russell, Jr., age 56, of Vienna died Wednesday, July 11, 2001, at his vacation home in Macio, Algoas, Brazil. He passed away in a country he loved with those he loved, doing what he loved.

He was born December 11, 1944, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, to Lonnie D. Russell, Sr. and Jean (Thompson) Russell.

In 1969 Lonnie Russell served in the U.S. Air Force as a captain and was stationed at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

He received a B.S. in zoology from the University of Tulsa in 1967, followed by an M.S. in medical sciences from the University of Oklahoma in 1969, and a PhD. in anatomy from the University of Nebraska in 1974. He held faculty positions at McGill University and the University of Miami and joined the Department of Physiology at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Carbondale in 1978. He achieved the rank of professor in 1982. He was an accomplished educator; 14 students completed studies for their M.S. or Ph.D. degrees under his guidance, and many others received pre- or post-doctoral training in his laboratory.

Dr. Russell was a creative and truly outstanding scientist and his work on the anatomy of the male gonad and on the control of spermatogenesis earned him national and international recognition as one of the undisputed leaders in his discipline. He published nearly 200 scientific articles, authored a series of books, served on the editorial boards of several scientific journals, and was editor-in-chief of the international journal "Tissue and Cell." His work significantly expanded the present understanding of the functioning of the male reproductive system and his results are widely cited.

He participated in the governance of several professional societies and served as a consultant for governmental agencies and industrial companies. He received numerous awards and countless invitations to speak about his research results. He established Cache River Press and published scientific texts and books of local interest.

His untimely death is a great loss to his family, to his colleagues, to the Department of Physiology, to Southern Illinois University, and to the fields of andrology, reproductive biology, and endocrinology.

He is survived by two daughters, Lauren Russell of Carbondale and Julie Ripper of Raymore, Missouri; his mother, Jean Russell, and sister, Terri Epstein, of St. Louis, Missouri. A celebration of Dr. Russell's life will be held in August at his home in Vienna.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to the Lonnie D. Russell, Jr. Memorial fund in Physiology and mailed to the SIU Foundation, P.O. Box 19666, Springfield, IL 62794-9666.